

I. General Remarks Concerning This Response

Claims 1-45 are currently pending in this application; no claims have been amended, added, or canceled herein.

An after-final amendment was previously filed; Applicant understands that the after-final amendment was not entered.

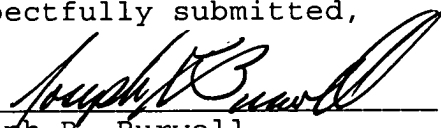
The previously filed appeal brief argued against the double patenting rejection in the present patent application. Although Applicant continues to disagree with the argument in the double patenting rejection, Applicant is filing terminal disclaimers for the related application in order to advance the prosecution of the patent application, thereby obviating the double patenting rejection. Since no other objections or rejections are outstanding, and formal drawings are also being filed by mail, this patent application is now allowable.

II. Conclusion

It is believed that the present patent application is now in condition for allowance. For any other outstanding matters or issues, the examiner is urged to call or fax the below-listed telephone numbers to expedite the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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